

REPLY UNDER 37 CFR §1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------|
| In re application of: | § | Docket No. P11712.00 / 31849.35 |
| Shores et al. | § | |
| Serial No.: 10/698,638 | § | Customer No. 27683 |
| Filed: October 31, 2003 | § | Group Art Unit: 3733 |
| For: COUPLING SYSTEM FOR SURGICAL INSTRUMENT | § | Examiner: Cumberledge, Jerry L. |
| | § | Confirmation No.: 3375 |

Mail Stop: AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION
MAILED FEBRUARY 22, 2008**

I. Introductory Remarks

The present paper is submitted in response to the Final Office Action mailed February 22, 2008.

No fees, including extension of time fees, are believed necessary for consideration of the present paper. However, if any fees are necessary, including extension of time fees, the extension of time is hereby requested, and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, including those for the extension of time, to Haynes and Boone, LLP's Deposit Account No. 08-1394.

The **Listing of Claims** begins on page 2.

Remarks begin on page 9.